Sl. No.	Items	Amount in lakhs
10.	Construction of weir Downstream of bathing ghat at Arattukadavu to prevent pollutants of Njunajar river entering the bathing Ghat at Pamba	18.00
11.	New Bathing Ghat and allied works on the left side of Pamba river opposite to the existing bathing ghat	35.00
12.	Public Awareness	20.00
	SUB-TOTAL; (1 to 12)	1485.50
	Add 15 percent escalation	222.82
	TOTAL:	1708.32
	Add 8 percent centage charges	136.66
	GRAND TOTAL:	1844.98

Say Rs. 18.45 crore

Pollution in Ganga water

2218. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Pollution Control Board has opined that despite 22 years of monitoring by the Supreme Court, the level of pollution, including fecal coliform, has increased in Ganga water rendering it unfit even for bathing and irrigation;

(b) if so, whether this polluted state of Ganga water has shaken the faith of majority of pilgrims who earlier used to take holy bath in the Ganga river to wash away their sins; and

(c) in what manner the envisaged Ganga Action Plan of Rs. 1000 crores will improve the quality of Ganga water?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The monitoring of water quality of river Ganga indicates that the water quality of the river is complying with the designated standards in terms of the key indicators namely, Dissolved Oxygen (DO) & Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) in major locations except for marginal deviations from the standards at a few monitoring points between Kannauj and Varanasi. The level of Fecal Coliforms (bacterial indicator for health concerns) are reported to be exceeding the maximum permissible limit of 2500 MPN (Most Probable Number) per 100 millilitre at many of the monitoring stations along river Ganga except in upstream locations of Haridwar.

(c) Under Ganga Action Plan (GAP), Phase-I, completed in March, 2000 and GAP, Phase-II sanctioned in stages from 1993 onwards, 401 schemes of pollution abatement have been completed. A total of 970 million litres per day of sewage treatment capacity has been created for river Ganga under both the phases so far. The water quality monitoring done by independent reputed institutions of the country indicates that despite a phenomenal increase in the population of urban centres along the river banks the water quality of the river shows a discernible improvement over the pre-GAP quality.

Conservation of rivers is a dynamic activity with the ever increasing pollution load due to rapid urbanization and increase in population. Review of the strategies of conservation policy and identification of additional towns and rivers is a continuous process. Due to continuous increase in the population resulting in increased pollution load, and gap in the availability of financial resources to take up works commensurate with the requirements, there is likely to be persistent divergence between the tackled pollution load and the actual pollution load.

Ganga Action Plan Phase I and II

2219. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state.

(a) the amount spent on cleansing of Ganga after Ganga Action Plan Phase I;

(b) the details of works done in Ganga Action Plan Phase II;

(c) the remaining works and by when these are likely to be completed;

(d) the present quality of Ganga water with technical details and the minimum prescribed standards; and

(e) whether further improvements are likely in the quality of water?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) An expenditure of Rs. 312.67 crore has been incurred as on 31st December, 2007 for undertaking various pollution abatement measures for the river Ganga under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National River Conservation Plan after Ganga Action Plan (GAP), Phase-I. A total of 163 works of pollution abatement have been completed under the GAP, Phase-II so far resulting in creation of 101 million litres per day of sewage treatment capacity. These works include interception and diversion of raw sewage, setting up of Sewage Treatment Plants for treating the diverted sewage, creation of low cost sanitation facilities, setting up of electric/improved wood crematoria and River Front Development among others.

(c) As river conservation is a continuous/dynamic activity, additional projects of pollution abatement are sanctioned by the Government from time to time under the GAP-II taking into account the pollution hotspots, proposals received from the State Government and availability of financial resources. In this regard, all the concerned State Governments have been advised to complete the 117 ongoing sanctioned works by the Financial Year 2009-10.

(d) and (e) The values of Dissolved Oxygen (DO) & Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand (BOD), key indicators of water quality, at major locations along the river Ganga in 1986 and 2007, *vis-a-vis* prescribed standards are indicated in the statement (*See* below). This shows that there has been a discernible improvement in the water quality of the river over its pre-GAP quality. However, besides pollution abatement initiatives, the water quality of the river is also impacted by a host of factors which include minimum flows in the river, proper Operation & Maintenance of the assets like Sewage Treatment Plants, Crematoria etc., development of sewerage/civic infrastructure within the cities/towns, among others.